

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 18, 1916.

Dr. John M. Thomas,
President, Middlebury College,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

This A. M. I received your long letter of the 17th and have read it for the second time with special interest, and have just spent half an hour or so gathering a mass of material pertaining to the chapel, which has been accumulated during the last two years or more and which possibly you may find, some of it at least, of use in the compiling of the little book to which you refer. I have not been over the same at all carefully, so without question you will find quite a few duplicates and a large mass of material which you cannot use in any way. I would simply suggest that you and Professor Wright use your own good judgment in every instance. I have sent you many letters, clippings from different papers, etc., etc., all in a mass without any arrangement as to dates or in any otherwise has it been arranged to be convenient for you.

You state that you think during the Christmas vacation you might have time to whip this all into shape. I surely hope you will not burden yourself with this matter, as there is no very great haste. I should much prefer to have you take plenty of time and thus have the same entirely to your satisfaction when it is complete. I have said nothing to Mrs. Mead yet about the little book to which you refer, which is to be in the form of a manuscript - still I know that she will be greatly pleased with the same.

As to illustrations, I hope you will just arrange for as many as

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you think will add in any way to the interest of this subject. To be frank with you, I have special hopes that it may be productive of great good to our college, as I do feel that others can be made specially interested in our Alma Mater, and that the full history and description of the chapel should induce others to lend a helping hand. We will have it published in the very best shape possible and I should be more than willing to distribute it very thoroughly among those, at least, whom I could expect would be interested. As you state, the chances for a dormitory for the girls I think would be very much increased with some such little advertisement as we could give to the college along these lines.

You refer to the other buildings which no doubt you should have and I am sure they will come in due time.

Referring to the meeting in New York on Jan. 26th; if you could advise me of your plans so that we could all work in harmony, I am sure much better results might be obtained. If a large board like that of your trustees gathers without any special previous information as to what the necessities are, it does not appeal to me that they can do nearly as good work. I shall endeavor to be present and trust that I may see you previous to that meeting and to learn what your wishes are and to be enabled to be of some assistance.

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Thomas and your family, also to Professor Wright and family, and President Brainerd and family, believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

*P. S. Save & return to me
what you will not use
to use it may be of some
use in the other works I do*

P. S. I will endeavor to send this material either by express or parcel post and get it to you by Monday or Tuesday of next week.